

**ST MARK THE EVANGELIST  
PARISH COUNCIL  
Meeting of November 8, 2017  
7:30 pm, Choir Room  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**In attendance:** Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Rev Jessica Worden-Bolling, Bruce Lodge, Cynthia Greer, Jenny Morphew, Gillian Morris, Kate Greer-Close, Margaret Lodge, Georgia Roberts, Ray Davidson, Maria Padin

**1. Opening the meeting**

**Call to order:** Bruce Lodge called the meeting to order at 7:29 pm.

**Opening Prayer/Reflection:** offered by Rev Jessica

**Reflection Question:** Rev. Jessica asked us to talk about a veteran that we would thinking about on Remembrance Day this year.

**Regrets:** Penny Miller, Laurie Slaughter

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Added to Other Business by Corporation: requests information regarding the new working group looking at creative uses for St. Mark's facilities

Moved by Georgia Roberts seconded by Michael Perkin; carried

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Moved by Kate Greer-Close seconded by Ray Davidson; carried

**3. Business arising from previous meeting**

**Main Church Sign / Link Entrance Sign:**

Corporation has had some discussion about illuminating the main sign. Steve Close has done some research and Kate Greer-Close will bring it to the January Council meeting.

**Financial Campaign:**

Bruce Lodge reported that some envelopes were still coming in. Karen Roberts is consolidating the information for the next Mark this Word. Bruce said that it was looking quite successful.

**Parking Lot/ St. Rita's School:**

Some information is available in the Rector's report. There are men helping with the morning student drop-off. One effectively handled an aggressive parent recently.

**Cornerstone New Housing Initiative:**

Sue Garvey will be speaking at the next Parish Breakfast. Georgia Roberts spoke to Circle 2 and they have voted to give the proceeds from the Art Show in April 2018. Julian of Norwich parish council has voted that Julian will share the cost of furnishing a room at Princeton Avenue. Georgia is hoping to create a new committee/ working group to manage this initiative.

## **4. Regular Reports**

### **Rector's Report**

The Fall Bible Study on the Book of Acts has been going very well. The attendance is very steady at about 10 people coming out each week.

Cynthia Greer and I met with the Principal of St. Rita's school on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. We discussed our concerns about the parents using the parking lot. Our suggestion was that they could supply a volunteer from the parents to help monitor the parking lot during the busy times. However, she was very clear that she only has control over her own property, so cannot even send a volunteer over to help with things. This was disappointing. However, she did mention they often call on the local police to help monitor the situation. She suggested we call them as well when someone is not being safe. I think we could add a "No parking here" or "Fire lane" sign to the railing at the steps to the office. I was here one day when someone parked right in front of the office area, but I noticed there is no sign for us to point to and say – please respect our rules. Maybe something can be done.

We had the Welcoming and Sharing Sunday on Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup>. As well as the Soupalicious event for Debra Dynes that same evening. Vance and I attended the Soupalicious meal held at the Carleton Heights community centre. It was a very well run event with lots of support from the community. It was fun to see Ed Lawrence in person as my father was a huge fan of his gardening tips. I gather Ed Lawrence has helped Debra Dynes with gardening advice for their raised garden beds. It was also wonderful to see some of the students that Debra Dynes has been able to support with financial help for their studies.

Georgia Roberts and I met with Brad Spooner at NROCRC along with some volunteers at Tanglewood and Manordale community centres. We were receiving some information about how to apply for grants to start up activities for seniors. The impression is that we may not be able to apply for these specific grants because we are a church. However, it was useful to learn about the groups for seniors that Tanglewood and Manordale have in place.

I attended the Parkwood Hills Stakeholders meeting on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. It was held at Parkwood Presbyterian Church. When I mentioned St. Mark's is interested in addressing the issue of seniors isolation, Keith Egli suggested I contact his office to speak with the woman who coordinates senior's care issues.

The synod delegates, Cynthia Greer, Jenny Morphew, Janis Perkin and I attended Synod on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. We plan to report on our impressions of Synod on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> to avoid the busyness of the remembrance service this coming Sunday. Rev. Jessica Worden-Bolling

### **Comments**

Advent Windows-Wednesday December 6, 2017- this workshop will be led by the Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera. The cost for a 4 hour workshop is \$100.00 and the fee for each participant will be \$10.00.

Quiet Christmas Service- Tuesday December 12, 2017- a tranquil service will be offered for people who may find Christmas difficult due to the loss of a loved one, depression or stress.

Parish Ministry Institute- they are going to offer a new course which Rev. Jessica is interested in taking. The plan for the course is yet to be finalized and so details are few at this point.

### **Warden's Report**

Paving Needs-We now know that the cost for paving the parking lot will be from \$25,000.00 and \$35,000.00. It is hoped that the funds can come from the Consolidated Trust Fund. Georgia Roberts has been asked to see if the funds were behests tied to certain interests or are unencumbered and so available to use for this purpose.

Cleaning Contract- the contract is due to be renewed and Cynthia Greer will be contacting Rose on November 15, 2017 to do a review.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Georgia Roberts requested that we take a look at her report once it has been published in the Advent/Christmas Mark This Word. Income did go up in October due in part to fundraising and the collections. Georgia pointed out that we really are dependent on the Sunday collections and then second is the income from our renters.

### **Property report for November P.C. 2017**

Changed light bulbs in BRH, church, choir area and over where old stairs were.

Turned off outside water hoses.

Pulled down a lot of vines, more to do, and trimmed part of hedges on Normandy. Bill Barber willing to help.

Fixed basement toilet. Last time it was the upstairs ones. Running toilets cost literally 100s of dollars.

Glued and nailed end of a pew, and the banister rail in church, and fixed chairs.

We have been offered another rocker, so Paul will pick it up.

Done anything he could see needed work, but never reports it.

There were a few drops of water on that bad rain day a couple of weeks ago near the font. Just have to wait and see.

A small amount of water came in at the bottom of the East wall in the basement, near the meter room.

Cynthia, for Paul Greer.

Added from Cynthia Greer's e-mail dated Nov. 7, 2017

This is November, but as I said in it, I don't always know what he has done. There's also cleaning all the gutters, and drainpipes, and regluing the basement step near the meter room, where the step cover had come off.

There's a load of vines in the parking lot, in case someone wants to make wreaths.

### **Comments**

One of the ongoing concerns is the running toilets. Renters and church members have been asked to check the washrooms before leaving the building. People on lock-up should also be alert to do the same check.

The door handle on the Ladies washroom in Bishop Reed Hall is starting to be difficult to use. Paul Greer will be asked to investigate either fixing it or replacing it before someone gets stuck inside.

## **Membership / Vitality / Communications**

### **Membership**

Baptisms: 2

#### **Past Parish events:**

- **October 22** Welcome Sunday lunch/reception
- **October 28** Fall Concert with the Valley Men
- **November 8** Seniors' Eucharist/Lunch

#### **Parish events coming up for the rest of the year:**

- **November 12** Parish Breakfast – Cornerstone Sue Garvey
- **November 15/22** Bible study continues – Book of Acts
- **November 18** Bazaar
- **December 3** Advent 1 Lessons & Carols for Advent 4:30 pm + light supper
- **December 8** Advent Windows art 10am – 2pm Rev Linda Privitera
- **December 12** Quiet Christmas 7:00 pm a time for healing prayer
- **December 17** Advent 3 10:00 am Lessons & Carols for Christmas with Eucharist
- **December 24** Advent 4 10:00 am Church School Pageant with Eucharist
- **December 24** Christmas Eve
  - 4:30 pm Family Service with Eucharist
  - 8:30 pm Carol singing
  - 9:00 pm Christmas Eucharist
- **December 25** Christmas Day 10:00 am Christmas Eucharist

### **Vitality**

Vitality has finished is planned events of FUN and FUNDrasing for 2017. Thanks to all parishioners for their support in many different ways, we reached our goal and made \$5600. We have one new recruit for 2018.

Event leaders are beginning to look at 2018 schedule to avoid clashing of events.

### **Communications:**

The up-coming MTW is the Advent issue. November deadline has passed. I will produce the newsletter and printing will be supervised by Joy B in my absence. Next MTW will be Lent. Please plan ahead.

Margaret Lodge Membership

**Comments:** Mark This Word - this edition will be 10 pages in length. Corporation is wondering if people could receive it electronically rather than it being mailed. It might help to ask parishioners again. A lively discussion followed with suggestions including, subscriptions, donation boxes when picking them up or asking those who are comfortable using e-mail to receive it that way.

### **Stewardship**

Michael Perkin has submitted a stewardship article to Mark This Word. He is looking for someone to serve on the new "facilities" committee. It was suggested that we have a parish gathering to do some thinking about how to use our facilities to further serve the community. The date suggested is Sunday, January 28, 2018 and we would have a combined service starting at 9:00 am.

## **Outreach Report**

### **Welcoming and Sharing Sunday:**

For the second year, on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, St. Mark's held a Welcoming and Sharing Sunday. All members were encouraged to attend and to welcome guests if they were not able to bring one themselves. Following our service a beautiful mini-luncheon hosted by our Parish Council replaced our usual coffee hour and around Bishop Reed Hall, 14 of our committees and church groups created table and wall displays so that people at the luncheon could see what each group does, ask questions and volunteer if interested. It is a day that requires an effort on the part of all participants and is worthy of all our members' support. It is also a special Sunday when we have an opportunity to ask someone to come to church with us for one day in order to experience our welcoming atmosphere and to share with them our worship and our contributions, through church work, to the community. It can only be hoped that in the future more people would come on this day and participate in welcoming and sharing, which would highlight our church in a time of diminishing population/membership. Many thanks to the members of Parish Council for good food, to all the St. Mark's groups who made the displays and to Rev. Jessica for her wholehearted support and enthusiasm for this concept of welcoming and sharing.

### **Debra Dynes:**

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> (shortly after working on Welcoming and Sharing Sunday), Georgia Roberts, a member of the Debra Dynes Family House Board who worked to organize the "Soupalicious" event that is held each year at Carleton Heights Community Centre, Penny Miller and Laurie Slaughter, worked to set up for this fundraiser. The responsibility for decorating the tables is taken on by Penny and Laurie and is our way of supporting the DDFH Board's efforts to fundraise for needed items. It is always a pleasure to be part of this event. Throughout the year, St. Mark's continues to provide a variety of items and funds for their needs.

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Slaughter

### **New Ministry Initiative/Exploration**

Since the last report, members of this committee have met with community workers in the seniors' outreach/services field.

Georgia Roberts has met with Brad Spooner from NROCRC (Nepean, Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Centre) who expressed interest in our exploration of how to assist with seniors' needs in the area. He suggested that we meet with Zeba Taj, a coordinator/facilitator of seniors' outreach at several sites.

Rev. Jessica and Georgia Roberts met with Zeba in October. She was enthusiastic about our interest in utilizing our space for seniors' services. She has set in place, an outreach that operates twice a month at Stirling Place which provides community seniors with a place to go and socialize and participate in various activities with the aim of counteracting senior isolation. Other sites where similar senior programs are taking place are Tanglewood and Manordale community centres. Zeba would be very willing to help establish a site at our church. A source of funding would be needed to cover expenses, but several grants could be applied for if a concrete plan of this service is designed and agreed upon by the membership of St. Mark's. Georgia and Rev. Jessica then met with Brad Spooner and volunteers from the Manordale and Tanglewood programs to learn more about grants offered by the Social Planning Council of Ottawa and some possibilities for collaborating.

Rev. Jessica also spoke with municipal councillor, Keith Egli, at a Parkwood Hills Stakeholders' Association meeting. He has a seniors' staff member, whom he recommended be contacted. These connections will be further explored and a tentative initial implementation plan will then be brought to Parish Council and the membership.

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Slaughter

**Comments:**

It was suggested that it might be beneficial to combine Welcoming Sunday with another event such as the Fall Barbeque. Rev. Jessica will keep this in mind when planning the activities for next fall.

**Choir**

There is a new placement in the service for the Junior Choir anthem. It now comes before the Children's Circle. There was many positive comments from the members of council. Both choirs enjoyed working with Frances McDonnell while she filled in for Ariane Dind.

**Sunday School**

The children will be selling the supplies to make Advent Wreaths on Christ the King Sunday. Supplies being sold are greenery, candles, and florist foam. They will also be baking cookies to give to a charity and making cards for shut-ins. On Advent 3 there will just be the nursery as the Nine Lessons and Carols will take place in the morning.

**Other Business**

**Nominating Committee**

The committee is up and running.

**Parish Council Notes for the Bulletin**

Thank you to those who participated in the Fall Financial Campaign by filling out forms or changing your givings.

**Next Meeting**

Our budget meeting will be on December 13, 2017 at 7:30 pm in the choir room

All business being completed the meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm with the saying of the Grace

Respectfully submitted

Janis Perkin Parish Council Secretary